proposals to the Government of Bangladesh for use of the facility of the Chittagong Port.

(b) No, Sir.

Decline in inflow of FDI

1861. MISS NABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Foreign Direct Investment inflow during the first four months of 1999-2000 was Rs. 1931 crores which is half of the inflow witnessed during the same period a year ago;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the FDI proposals cleared during the first four months also declined by 41 per cent;

(c) whether Government have any plan to remedy the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Sir, FDI investment inflow during the first four months of 1999-2000 and FDI proposal cleared for the corresponding period of 1998-1999 is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Total amount of Approvals	Inflow
1999 (Apr.-July)	5738.05	2880.15
1998 (Apr.-July)	11009.11	5417.84

(b) During the first four months of the current financial year 498 FDI proposals have been approved as compared to 450 FDI proposals during the corresponding period of the last financial year.

(c) and (d) The Government takes steps, on a continuous basis, to promote foreign investments such as:—

(i) Providing information regarding 'Projects on Offer' through Websites.

(ii) Organisation of Seminars etc. abroad in consultation and with cooperation of various industry Associations.

(iii) Establishment of Contact with International companies for inviting investments in appropriate projects.

(iv) Providing institutional mechanism for facilitating speedy implementation of projects.

(v) Reviewing FDI Policy from time to time in Order to make it more and more investor friendly.

Abolition of Zero Duty on Import of Capital Goods

1862. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to do away with Zero duty on import of capital goods to provide level playing field to the domestic Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that a sizeable section of the public and a dominant group of captains of trade and industry have grave misapprehensions with regard to the challenges posed by expected import surge as a result of World Trade Organization Agreement; and

(d) if so, what steps are contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The facility of import of capital goods without payment of duty is available under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme and Export Oriented unit/Export Processing Zones schemes. The duty free import of capital goods is also allowed to mega power projects, fertilizer plants etc. The domestic manufacturers supplying capital goods against aforesaid schemes are eligible to the benefit of deemed exports. These benefits include (a)